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Archives-House

NATIONAL ARCHIVES WANTS TO TAKE OVER "RUMAH SEJARAH"

KEPALA BATAS, March 27 (Bernama) -- The National Archives plans to take over "Rumah Sejarah" here, the former residence of Abdullah Fahim, the ulama who suggested Aug 31, 1957 as the date for declaration of the country's independence.

Its Director-General Rahani Jamil said the takeover was expected to be finalised within three months after talks with Abdullah Fahim's family.

The department had undertaken a similar project when it took over the Alor Setar house where former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was born.

Rahani told reporters this after the historiography on Abdullah Fahim opened by Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, the newly-appointed Information Minister, here today.

Abdullah Fahim was also the grandfather of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

She said the National Archives was drawing out the concept for the house which included Abdullah Fahim's activities and contributions to the country.

"We want to re-create the environment at that time and National Archives is trying to get a photograph which depicts the house's original structure to have it rebuilt," she said.

Abdullah Fahim was a renowned ulama during the country's pre-independence years. Born in Mecca in 1880, Abdullah Fahim was an expert in astronomy and Arabic literature apart from being an outstanding politician.

He returned here and became a religious teacher in 1916 to students who came from world-wide including Pattani, Java, Sumatra, India, China and Middle East.

Earlier in his speech, Abdul Kadir said he hoped plans by the National Archives to take over Abdullah Fahim's heritage house would be a reality.

He said the efforts showed the country had produced a number of personalities who were the pride of Malaysians.

The house is now used by Kepala Batas Umno division as a heritage and memorial complex.

-- BERNAMA

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